



## Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022

**Time:** 4:00pm- 6:00pm

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Raia (co-chair), Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Cynthia DeAngelis

Guests: Teresa Marzilli (DEI Division) Rebecca Gruber (DTG) Karen Kelleher (Arlington Housing Authority)

Absent: Liza Molina, Paul Parravano, Illeana Gatica Herrera

Minutes:

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome
  - a. Janice asked if volunteers are a part of public or if they are considered tangential members?
  - b. Com. DeAngelis states commissioners had previously discussed giving a special consideration to consistent volunteers, suggests first asking attorney and then putting on the agenda for a vote, language may be "associates"
  - c. Com. Fallon states with regular volunteers and commissioners the energy gets together on ideas and it feels equal

2. Approve Draft June Meeting Minutes
  - a. Com. DeAngelis moves to approve minutes seconded by Com. Raia
3. Robbins Library & DTG Social Justice Book Club (15 min, Grace introduce Rebecca)
  - a. Rebecca Gruber discusses partnership with commission for Disability Visibility, edited by Alice Wong
  - b. Diversity Task Group social justice book group- meets every other month book may be title for Arlington Reads Together, Social Justice book club wants to collaborate with other town entities, book is available as audiobook, first person essays, easier read, has edition for younger adults
  - c. Com. Carpenter states concern about doing it in September due to school calendar- response is group can be flexible, could do another month
  - d. Com. Carpenter asks what kind of events and preparation?
  - e. Rebecca Gruber states a partnership may mean inviting people from the disability community in, perhaps expanded meetings if there is a lot of interest, have book group during the disability commission meeting if it is convenient, pull in high school population to either of two meetings and potentially a third, book has many points of entry, different ways to become cognizant of what disability looks like, happy to have the book used in as many ways people have energy to do
  - f. Com. Fallon would like to work book into what we do and support folks with disability, suggests putting it on the back burner and then talk more about it later, for other events using large table in library
  - g. Com. Raia likes the idea of targeting middle and high school students with book
  - h. Com. DeAngelis suggests do something now and then a larger presentation in March, other commissions concur their interest in doing longer form project then
  - i. Rebecca Gruber will inform group about ART title, then commission can decide how to proceed
  - j. Commissioners in agreement that it's a good idea, will discuss again in September- put on agenda
4. Preparation Farmer's Market, Wednesday July 27 (15 min Grace)
  - a. Printed materials review: updated brochure, resource list, playground chart, communication boards, HP spot map
  - b. Com. Raia and Com. Angelis can come full 3 hrs, Com. Carpenter at 4 pm
  - c. Brochure should be ready- question about whether we can print it out at the office or if Com. DeAngelis or Com. Carpenter need to get it printed
  - d. Com. DeAngelis' husband to make additional edits
  - e. Brochure is as is with small edits voted on accepted by Com. DeAngelis, seconded by Com. Raia
  - f. Com. DeAngelis states it was difficult to understand the scope of the Disability commission, the commission has a lot of power to advocate for what is needed in scope of inclusiveness, suggests printing the statutory law and having an attorney come to discuss the role of the Disability Commission in government

5. Town Day (5 min Grace & Paul)
  - a. Com. Carpenter states we do not have enough volunteers for a table, co-chairs for Rainbow and AHRC will allow seat at their tables, Com. Carpenter can go for an hour or two
6. Discuss Inviting Department Guests (20 min Grace)
  - a. Com. DeAngelis suggests building department, social worker in APD, Police Chief, special education director, community person in charge of restaurants
  - b. Com. DeAngelis suggests Mike can speak about bricks & roads, September spend 10 mins can speak on historical perspective, facilitated opportunities to look at building plans, how to keep that going
  - c. Com. Fallon recommends allowing for the first 30 mins for presenters
  - d. DPW upgrade & construction last year, updates from town do not say anything about ADA or disability access
  - e. Waiting for presenters until the ADA coordinator is in place
  - f. Com. Fallon asks how do we support residential programs that are here, they regularly feel like outsiders, folks with mental health issues unable to live independently, wonder who are they and what do they do? At some point we should know the agencies and residents
  - g. Com. DeAngelis recommends focusing on meet and greets with town departments and then moving out from there
  - h. Com. Carpenter would like to hear more about capital, who decides the priorities of accessibility projects, questions about finance
  - i. Com. DeAngelis states having lawyers can bring in history
  - j. ADA coordinator will have to take document and streamline priorities, each department puts together requests for capital funds, issues within dept facilities that need to be upgraded within that plan, but it is not so easily digested. DC needs to simplify it and then get it into the hands of department heads.
  - k. One of biggest goals identifying link between report and priorities and having Town know about it
  - l. Com. Raia having meeting with select board to reaffirm status as organization in town that has oversight of issues related to disability, as ones that interact directly with town heads of departments, if word comes from them then integrated conceptualization of disability plan could be possible
  - m. Com. DeAngelis Disability responded she believes the commission goes to select board to advocate for projects, have to educate
  - n. Janice agrees with Com. Raia about going to select board and asserting authority as far as accessibility, should be on top of any approval the select board makes in building projects
  - o. Com. Rademacher- we have transition plan, should dust it off the shelf and enforce it, shows where deficiencies are the commissions job should be to make sure the plan is enacted, making sure the town spends a percentage of capital money on fixing those things every year

- p. Inviting the town manager, to become acquainted with group & build allyship
- 7. Updates (40 min)
  - a. Remote Participation
    - i. Extension until March of 2023, gives committee room to run pilot program, commission will be one group involved in pilot program, developing protocol & instructions for chairs to run meetings via hybrid, feedback forms from chairs, commission members, and public
    - ii. Hoping legislature will approve hybrid meetings in perpetuity
  - b. Recap True Story Theater program 7/14
    - i. Hybrid presentation went well, people able to participate from the Zoom
    - ii. People were engaged, participating, showing love and support to one another, people realized they were not alone in their experiences of invisible disabilities
  - c. DPW
    - i. Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Broadway plaza went well, sidewalks East of Pleasant street no new bricks, is accessible space
    - ii. Curb cutting map prioritize improvements based on proximity to schools, low income housing etc, use the ADA transition plan
    - iii. Improvements to parking lot in the center of town, adding lighting, improve sidewalks and to handicap parking
    - iv. Looking to replace the sidewalk that wasn't yet along Mass Ave handicap parking there
  - d. Communication Boards publicity update
    - i. Communication board at Summer Street Park- people to post a picture the more people see it the more interest
    - ii. Com. Raia states there is a lot of playground equipment out there, advocates for installing more for wheelchair users at the schools
    - iii. Stratton first playground renovation coming up, slated to be very accessible
    - iv. Potential to have communication boards at the Reservoir park or other spaces
    - v. Com. Kerrie states important history of rec dept/DC and how much she had to advocate for accessible spaces, there has been much progress but the fight continues
  - e. DEI
    - i. The ADA coordinator position is still open, have received applications and Jill and HR will be scheduling phone screenings next week
    - ii. The Equity Audit is finishing up data collection, will begin on focus groups shortly
    - iii. Affordable Housing Trust Discussion

1. Karen Kelleher and Rebecca Gruber discussed importance of engaging diverse community that is people with disabilities, hybrid model or a Saturday session would be best for engaging community
8. Com. Rademacher made motion to adjourn, seconded by Com. DeAngelis

Commission members not able to attend please email [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us) prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact [dei@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dei@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.